

What is claimed is:

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1. A stud bridging/spacing system adaptable to engage one or more studs, comprising:
- a bridging member;
- a bracket attachable to the bridging member at any of a plurality of locations; and
- at least one stud engager formed in said bracket.
2. The stud bridging/spacing system of claim 1 wherein each said at least one stud engager comprises a notch in said bracket.
3. The stud bridging/spacing system of claim 2 wherein said bridging member has an elongated axis and wherein each said notch extends at an incline to the longitudinal axis of said bridging member.
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4. The stud bridging/spacing member of claim 3, wherein said notches extend inwardly at an angle of about five and a half degrees to about eight degrees relative to a perpendicular to the longitudinal axis.
- X 5. The stud bridging/spacing member of claim 4, wherein said notches extend inwardly at an angle of about seven degrees.
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6. The stud bridging/spacing member of claim 3, wherein the notches incline in the same direction.

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Cont

7. The stud bridging/spacing member of claim 2, wherein the notches have a width of about 0.065 inch (0.16 cm) to 0.080 inch (0.20 cm).

8. The stud bridging/spacing member of claim 2, wherein the notches have a width of 0.080 inch (0.20 cm).

9. The stud bridging/spacing member of claim 2, wherein the sides of the notches are parallel.

10. The stud bridging/spacing member of claim 2, wherein the sides of the notches are straight.

11. The stud bridging/spacing member of claim 1, wherein the bridging member is formed in a thickness selected from the group of fourteen, sixteen or eighteen gauge metal.

12. The stud bridging/spacing system of claim 1, wherein said bridging member has a V-shaped cross-section.

X 13. The stud bridging/spacing system of claim 12 wherein said bracket has a V-shaped cross-section.

although Bracket & stud have V-shape Bracket alone does not.

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Col 5 lines 63-67

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14. The stud/bridging spacing system of claim 13 wherein said bracket has a first lateral side having at least one stud engaging notch therein and a second lateral side having other stud engaging notches therein that are laterally aligned with said stud engaging notches in said first lateral side.

15. The stud bridging/spacing system of claim 14 wherein said bridging member has an elongated axis and wherein each said stud-engaging notch in said first lateral side and each said other stud engaging notch in said second lateral side extends at an incline to the longitudinal axis of said bridging member.

16. The stud bridging/spacing system of claim 1 wherein said bracket is attached to said bridging member by removable fasteners.

17. The stud bridging/spacing system of claim 16 wherein said removable fasteners comprise sheet metal screws.

18. The stud bridging/spacing system of claim 1 wherein said bridging member has two ends and wherein said stud bridging/spacing system further comprises at least one hole through said bridging member adjacent each end thereof.

19. The stud bridging/spacing system of claim 1 further comprising a series of holes through said bridging member for attaching said bracket to said bridging member in a plurality of locations.

20. The stud bridging/spacing system of claim 19 wherein said holes are spaced from each other a distance that corresponds to another distance by which the studs are separated from each other.

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21. A stud bridging/spacing system for laterally supporting a plurality of spaced-apart studs each having a web, comprising:

means for spanning between the webs of at least two spaced-apart studs; and

means for engaging the webs of the at least two spaced-apart studs, said means for engaging removably affixable to said means for spanning in a plurality of locations therealong.

22. Apparatus for laterally supporting a plurality of spaced-apart studs each having a web, said apparatus comprising:

an elongated bridging member having two ends;

a stud engager formed in said elongated bridging member; and

a face bracket attachable to a vertical surface and attachable to one end of said elongated bridging member.

23. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the vertical surface is a web of a stud.

24. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the vertical surface is a vertical wall.

25. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein said face bracket comprises:

a first portion attachable to said elongated bridging member;

a second portion attached to said first portion and the vertical surface.

26. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein said first portion comprises a pair of first portions which are angled to approximate a cross-sectional shape of said elongated bridging member and wherein said second portion comprises a pair of second portions which extend at right angles to said pair of first portions and are attached thereto.

27. The apparatus of claim 26 wherein said elongated bridging member has a cross-sectional V-shape.

28. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein each said at least one stud engager comprises a notch in said elongated bridging member.

29. The apparatus of claim 28 wherein said elongated bridging member has an elongated axis and wherein each said notch extends at an incline to the longitudinal axis of said bridging member.

30. The apparatus of claim 29, wherein said notches extend inwardly at an angle of about five and a half degrees to about eight degrees relative to a perpendicular to the longitudinal axis.

X 31. The apparatus of claim 30, wherein said notches extend inwardly at an angle of about seven degrees.

X 32. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein said stud engagers are formed in a bracket removably attachable to said elongated bridging member.

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33. A metal stud wall comprising:
at least two metal studs each having at least two flanges interconnected by a web, the web of each stud having an opening and the studs being arranged in a row with the openings in the webs thereof aligned with one another; and
an elongate member spanning between the webs of at least two studs;
a first bracket attached to said elongated member;
at least one stud engager in said first bracket for engaging the web of one metal stud;
a second bracket attached to said elongated member; and
at least one other stud engager in said second bracket for engaging the web of another stud.

X 34. A wall arrangement comprising:
a first wall having a vertical surface;
a second wall perpendicularly extending from said first wall, said second wall formed from a plurality of spaced-apart metal studs each having a web portion;

means for attaching said means for spanning to said vertical surface of said first wall.

38. A doorjamb comprising:
a first stud having at least two flanges connected by a web, each said flange having an end portion;
an opening through said web of said first stud;
a second stud having at least two flanges connected by a web, said web of said second stud abutting said end portions of said flanges in said first stud;
another opening through said flange of said second stud, said another opening aligned with said opening in said web of said first stud;
an elongated jamb connector extending through said opening and said another opening;
and
stud engagers in said elongated jamb connector, wherein at least one stud engager engages said web of said first stud and wherein at least one other stud engager engages said web of said second stud.

39. The doorjamb of claim 38 wherein each said stud engagers comprises a notch in said elongated jamb connector.

40. The doorjamb of claim 38 wherein said elongated jamb connector has an elongated axis and wherein each said notch extends at an incline to the longitudinal axis of said bridging member.

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41. A doorjamb comprising:

a first stud having at least two flanges connected by a web, each said flange having an end portion;

an opening through said web of said first stud;

a second stud having at least two flanges connected by a web, said web of said second stud abutting said end portions of said flanges in said first stud;

another opening through said flange of said second stud, said another opening aligned with said opening in said web of said first stud;

means for spanning through said opening and said another opening; and

means for engaging said webs of said first and second studs on said means for spanning.

42. A method of constructing a wall, comprising:

supporting a plurality of metal studs each having a web with an opening therethrough, such that the openings in the metal studs are aligned with each other;

inserting a bridging member through the openings in at least two studs; and

attaching a bracket having a stud engager therein to the bridging member such that the stud engager is aligned with one of the webs of the studs; and

engaging the stud engager with the aligned web.

43. The method of claim 42 further comprising:

attaching another bracket having another stud engager therein to the bridging member such that the another stud engager is aligned with another web of another stud; and

engaging the another stud engager with the another web.

44. A method of constructing a windowjamb, comprising:

providing a first stud having at least two flanges connected by a web, each flange having an end portion;

abutting a web of a second stud with the end portions of the flanges of the first stud such that an opening in the web of the first stud is aligned with an opening in the web of the second stud; and

engaging the webs of the first and second studs with a common member extending through the aligned openings.

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